



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF APPEALS

APPEAL BRIEF FOR THE APPLICANTS

Yoshiharu KURODA et al.

Serial No. 08/942,415

Field: October 16, 1997

Group Art Unit: 2622

Examiner: M. Wallerson

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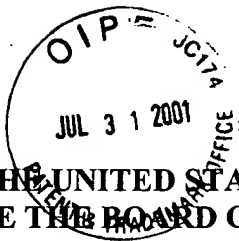
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re the Application of: **Yoshiharu KURODA, et al.**

Serial Number: **08/942,415**

Group Art Unit: **2622**

Filed: **October 16, 1997**

Examiner: **M. Wallerson**

For: **IMAGE RECORDING DEVICE**

BRIEF ON APPEAL

Sir:

Date: July 31, 2001

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Following the filing of the Notice of Appeal on May 3, 2001, the period for response having been extended by one month, the following is the Applicants' Appeal Brief. The Commissioner is authorized to charge FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS (\$420.00), which includes the \$310.00 fee for filing a Brief on Appeal and \$110.00 fee for a one-month extension of time, to our deposit account no. 01-2340, as well as any other fees required by the PTO to make this complete and timely filing. A one-month Petition of Extension of time is being filed concurrently herewith.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Murata Kikai Kabushiki Kaisha, 3-banchi, Kisshoin Minami Ochiai-cho, Minami-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto, Japan.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other related appeals of interferences.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

This is an appeal from the action of the Examiner, dated January 3, 2001, finally rejecting claims 1-13. Claims 1-13 are appealed and are set forth in the attached APPENDIX.

The claims and specification stand as amended by the amendments dated October 29, 1999, April 5, 2000 and December 1, 2000.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments have been filed after the final rejection of January 3, 2001.

V. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One Embodiment of the Invention

The invention relates to an image recording device equipped with both facsimile functions and copier functions. The image recording device may be used to scan an image on a document transported from a document sheet supply tray and discharged onto a document sheet outlet tray. The image recording device may also be used to record an image on a recording sheet transported from a cassette unit and discharged onto a recorded paper discharge tray.

One detailed example of one embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 and described on pages 5-12 of the specification of this application. Referring to Fig. 1, an operation panel 2 is provided on the front surface of a device main body 1 wherein the user performs copying and image data transmission operations by operating keys on the operational panel 2. A recorded

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paper discharge tray 3, document sheet supply tray 4, document outlet tray 5 and multi-purpose tray 6 are positioned on the device main body 1. As best shown in Fig. 2, a removable cassette unit 7 is mounted on the base of device main body 1.

As shown in Fig. 1, trays 3, 4 and 5 are substantially confined to the width of the device main body 1. This arrangement where the trays 3, 4 and 5 do not project from the lateral sides of the device main body 1 reduces the space required for the image recording device.

As further shown in Fig. 1, the multi-purpose tray 6 is formed on the exposed upper surface of the base of the main body 1 and below the document sheet outlet tray 5. Thus, the multi-purpose tray 6 does not project from the lateral sides of the device, either. Consequently, there is no necessity to secure a space for the multi-purpose tray 6 on the lateral side of the device. This also contributes to space saving.

In addition, there is no need to open/close or attach/remove the multi-purpose tray 6 by hand since the multi-purpose tray 6 is a built-in tray. Together with the horizontal positioning of the multi-purpose tray 6, a relatively large paper stacking space is maintained in the multi-purpose tray.

Furthermore, the built-in multi-purpose tray is more rigid than a conventional flap-type tray. Accordingly, a larger amount of recording sheets can be place on the multi-purpose tray 6 than a conventional flap-type tray. The multi-purpose tray 6 is also open to the user standing in front of

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the operation panel 2 so that an operation for supplying the recording sheets to the multi-purpose tray 6 is easy. The space for a user's hand when inserting the recording sheets into the tray is maintained so that operability is improved.

VI. ISSUES

The issues presented for review before the Board in this Appeal are: (a) whether claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,412,490) in view of Ono (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,496) and Kitazawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,078,380); and (b) whether claims 4, 5, 9, 10 and 13 are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima et al., Ono and Kitazawa in view of Sakaue (European Patent Publication No. 0673 147 A2).

VII. GROUPING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13, considered to stand or fall together, are directed to an image recording device.

VIII. ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13

Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima in view of Ono and Kitazawa. Also, claims 4, 5, 9, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima in view of Ono, Kitazawa and Sakaue.

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Claims 1-13 are directed to an image recording apparatus including a main body having a recorded paper discharge tray, a document sheet supply tray, a document sheet outlet tray, a base having an exposed upper surface, and a multi-purpose tray provided on the exposed upper surfaces.

More specifically, independent claims 1 and 6 call for *a main body including: ...*

a base having an exposed upper surface; and a multi-purpose tray provided on said exposed upper surface of said base and below the document sheet outlet tray for holding recording sheets, wherein a user loads said recording sheets directly onto said multi-purpose tray.

For example, as shown in Fig. 1, multipurpose tray 6 is provided on the exposed upper surface of a base of the main body 1 and below the document sheet outlet tray 5. In this arrangement, the multipurpose tray 6 does not project from the lateral sides of the main body 1, thereby saving space. Further, since the multipurpose tray 6 is a built-in tray there is no need to attach/remove it or be concerned with placing a large amount of sheets on it since it is more rigid than a conventional flap-type tray.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's combination rejection of **Kojima, Ono** and **Kitazawa** fails to disclose or fairly suggest, singly or in combination, *a main body including: ... a base having an exposed upper surface; and a multi-purpose tray provided on said exposed upper surface of said base and below the document sheet outlet tray for holding recording sheets, wherein*

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a user loads said recording sheets directly onto said multi-purpose tray, as set forth in each of the independent claims 1 and 6.

With regard to the primary reference of Kojima and the secondary reference of Ono, the Examiner admits that these references each fail to disclose *a main body including: ... a base having an exposed upper surface; and a multi-purpose tray provided on said exposed upper surface of said base*. That is, according to the Examiner “Kojima as modified also differs from claim 1 and 6 in that he does not disclose a base having an exposed upper surface and a multipurpose tray provided on the exposed upper surface of the base.”¹

The examiner relies on the additional secondary reference of Kitazawa for teaching the above-discussed drawbacks and deficiencies of the combination of Kojima and Ono.

More specifically, the Examiner takes the position that:

Kitazawa disclose a copier (figure 1) comprising a base having an exposed upper surface and multipurpose tray (25) provided on the exposed upper surface of the base (figure 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kojima as modified wherein the copier has a base having an exposed upper surface and a multipurpose try is provided on the exposed upper surface of the base. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kojima as modified by the teaching of

¹ Please see, lines 13-15, page 4 of the Office Action dated January 3, 2001.

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Kitazawa in order to allow a user to easily feed papers manually into the tray.²

However, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is mischaracterizing the teaching of **Kitazawa**.

That is, according to **Kitazawa**, “A manual feeding tray 25 is provided at the right side of body 21 for manually receiving and feeding paper into the image-forming section.”³

In other words, **Kitazawa** fails to disclose a multi-purpose tray provided on an exposed upper surface of the base, since **Kitazawa** explicitly discloses that the manual feeding tray 25 is provided at the right side of the body 21 and not on an exposed upper surface of body 21.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that at best Figs. 1 - 3 of **Kitazawa** are inconclusive as to whether tray 25 is provided on an exposed upper surface of body 21, and in light of such inconclusiveness Figs. 1 - 3 must be interpreted in the light of the specification, wherein such specification clearly states that the feeding tray 25 is provided at the right side of the body 21 and not on an exposed upper surface of body 21.

Thus, even if, arguendo, the teachings of **Kojima**, **Ono** and **Kitazawa** be combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such combined teachings would still fall far short in fully

² Please see, line 16, page 4 - line 3, page 5 of the Office Action dated January 3, 2001.

³ Please see, lines 60-63, column 2 of **Kitazawa**.

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meeting the applicants' claimed invention. As such, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have found the applicants' claimed invention obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Kojima, Ono or Kitazawa, singly or in combination.

As set forth above, it is respectfully asserted that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the recitations of the claims. The Applicant respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's rejections and allow this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Appendix

IX. APPENDIX

CLAIMS ON APPEAL

1. An image recording device having a top, a bottom and a width, comprising:
 - a main body including:
 - a recorded paper discharge tray provided at the top of the image recording device;
 - a document sheet supply tray provided below the recorded paper discharge tray for holding a document sheet;
 - a document sheet outlet tray provided below the document sheet supply tray for receiving the document sheet;
 - a base having an exposed upper surface; and
 - a multi-purpose tray provided on said exposed upper surface of said base and below the document sheet outlet tray for holding recording sheets, wherein a user loads said recording sheets directly onto said multi-purpose tray;
 - a recording sheet supply part provided below said main body and independent of said multi-purpose tray for holding a plurality of stacked recording sheets and supplying a recording sheet one page at a time, said recording sheet supply part includes a paper cassette which is attachable to and detachable from said image recording device, said paper cassette capable of being manually loaded;
 - an image scanner that transports the document sheet from the document sheet supply tray, scans an image on the document sheet and discharges the document sheet onto the document sheet outlet tray; and

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a recording part that transports the recording sheet from the recording sheet supply part or the multi-purpose tray, records an image on the recording sheet and discharges the recording sheet onto the recorded paper discharge tray, with the recorded paper discharge tray, the document sheet supply tray, the documents sheet outlet tray and the multi-purpose tray being confined within the width of the image recording device.

2. The image recording device as in claim 1, wherein the multi-purpose tray is arranged horizontally between the document sheet outlet tray and recording sheet supply part such that a considerable space is maintained between the multi-purpose tray and document sheet outlet tray.

3. The image recording device as in claim 1 or 2, wherein the recording sheet supply part comprises a cassette unit, the cassette unit includes a paper cassette and its housing, the paper cassette stores the recording sheets in a stacked state and is freely inserted in a removed from the housing, and the cassette unit is freely attached to and removed from the image recording device.

4. The image recording device as in claim 1 or 2, wherein operations of the image recording device and paper cassette insertion/removal actions are performed by a user facing at right angle to a document transport direction and a recording sheet transport direction.

5. The image recording device as in claim 3, wherein operations of the image recording device and paper cassette insertion/removal actions are preformed by a user facing at right angle to a document transport direction and a recording sheet transport direction.

6. An image recording device having a top, a bottom and a width, comprising:

a main body including:

a recorded paper discharge tray provided at the top of the image recording device;

a document sheet supply tray provided below the recorded paper discharge for holding a document sheet;

a document sheet outlet tray provided below the document sheet supply tray for receiving the document sheet;

a base having an exposed upper surface; and

a multi-purpose tray provided on said exposed upper surface of said base and below the document sheet outlet tray for holding at least one recording sheet and supplying a recording sheet one page at a time;

an image scanner that transports the document sheet from the document sheet supply tray, scans an image on the document sheet and discharges the document sheet onto the document sheet outlet tray; and

a recording part that transports the recording sheet from the multi-purpose tray, recording an image on the recording sheet and discharges the recording paper discharge tray, the document sheet supply tray, the document sheet outlet tray and the multi-purpose tray being confined within the width of the image recording device.

7. The image recording device as in claim 6, wherein the multi-purpose tray is arranged horizontally between the document sheet outlet tray and recording sheet supply part such that a considerable space is maintained between the multi-purpose tray and document sheet outlet tray.

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8. The image recording device as in claim 6 or 7, wherein the recording sheet supply part comprises a cassette unit, the cassette unit includes a paper cassette and its housing, the paper cassette stores the recording sheets in a stacked state and is freely inserted in and removed from the housing, and the cassette unit is freely attached to and removed from the image recording device.

9. The image recording device as in claim 6 or 7, wherein operations of the image recording device and paper cassette insertion/removal actions are performed by a user facing at right angle to a document transport direction and a recording sheet transport direction.

10. The image recording device as in claim 8, wherein operations of the image recording device and paper cassette insertion/removal actions are performed by a user facing at right angle to a document transport direction and a recording sheet transport direction.

11. The image recording device as in claim 6 further including a recording supply part provided at the bottom of the image recording device and below the multi-purpose tray for holding a plurality of stacked recording sheets and supplying a recording sheet one page at a time.

12. The image recording device as in claim 6, wherein the multi-purpose tray defines the bottom of the image recording device.

13. The image recording device as in claim 6, wherein the user can insert the recording sheet into the multi-purpose tray from a direction perpendicular to the width of the device.